

VALERA ASSENTS TO PLEBISCITE ON PEACE PACT

Sinn Fein Chief Makes First Concession on Treaty.

**Goes to Vote Should He Go
Dail Majority.**

BRITISH HOLD IRISH FORCE

New Turn of Affairs and Riot Held Withdrawal

Irish President Loses Ground

His Own War Talk.

Dublin, Dec. 20.—Eamonn de Valera, announced in *Dail Eireann* this

in the event he succeeds in obtaining a majority of the votes against the Irish peace treaty he is prepared to submit it to a plebiscite of the Irish people.

"The people will break this treaty within a year," he said. "We should throw this treaty at England as a subversion of Sinn Féin principles. We have become West Britons after

When Daif Eireann convened today, Eamonn de Valera announced his intention to present his motion for adoption of "alternative proposals" when the Dail is ready to vote for ratification of the treaty brought back from London. He did not indicate what these proposals would be.

In Sinn Féin quarters it is reported that arrangements have been made for complete amnesty, including prisoners who have been sentenced to death, when the Irish peace treaty is signed.

Belfast Troops Use Bayonets.
Belfast, Dec. 20.—British soldiers cleared Falls road of looters and snipers at the point of the bayonet today. It was a regular battle charge with

Police and soldiers broke in houses and arrested many snipers who were firing from windows and house tops.

Withdrawal Is Suspended.
Queensstown, Dec. 20.—Removal of the British troops which was to have been begun today has been suspended and they will not be withdrawn unless the treaty is ratified, it was stated here.

British Not Impressed.
London, Dec. 20. (By the A. P.)

The first day of public debate in the Dail on Arthur Griffith's motion to ratify the Irish peace treaty made somewhat unfavorable impressions upon the majority of the English correspondents in Dublin their dispatch indicate, but none of them takes the view that the treaty will be rejected. Several record their belief that

will be ratified, altho they expect a majority to be small, while others abstain from any sort of prediction. General emphasis is laid on the bitterness displayed by Edmond de Villiers and other opponents of ratification and upon the similar feeling shown in the arguments by Griffiths Michael Collins and their followers. Opinion differs as to the possible

feet upon the Dail member of the speeches delivered by their leaders. On one hand Mr. De Valera is represented as having spoken as a man who knew himself defeated; on the other hand it is declared that his impassioned oratory swung the pendulum toward his side. His attitude in advocating "a policy which would in-

The editorial writers generally, however, profess confidence that the treaty will be ratified. The Daily Telegraph refuses to believe that "the Daily Mail is foolish enough to reject the solid boon of dominion status in favor of the fantastic and impossible idea

Long Debate Favorable.
The Westminster Gazette thinks that "the longer the debate lasts the more certain and decisive will be the drift back from words to realities" and refuses even to doubt the acceptance of the treaty. It declares:
"What we are witnessing is not

Some of the correspondents predict that, whatever happens in the matter of a decision on the treaty, Ireland

committed to a period of violent political strife, while others seem disinclined to attach overmuch importance to the seriousness of the rival speeches, intimating that allowance must be made for the Irish temperament.

Harding to Issue Xmas Pardons.

Washington, Dec. 26.—President Harding next Friday will make public a list of Christmas pardons. It was announced officially at the White House this afternoon.